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be dreaming dreams of the great rural community plants instead of how he is going to attract sufficient attention to get a call to the city and thus make an early escape from an irksome but necessary task to be endured during the course of his development.

The far-reaching result of an institution adequately preparing men for the rural ministry is not difficult to see. With the advent of such an institution a new day for the country church will be made possible. Since the redemption of the country church is one of our gravest problems today, it would seem that serious attention might well be given to the establishment of an institution which will meet this need.

What more important challenge faces the Church today than the creation of a great interdenominational seminary or training school at one of our better agricultural colleges, centrally located?

This is AN URGENT NEED.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT THE PROTESTANT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

BY O. D. FOSTER

The friends of Christian Education are vitally interested in knowing the number and quality of students in training for leadership in the Churches. They also desire to know how they are distributed by denominations, as well as how many will be available this coming year for their respective communions. To ascertain these facts, the Council sent inquiries to all the Seminaries and Training Schools in the country. Practically all of the schools have responded generously. Most of the blanks have been accurately and carefully filled out, for which the Council tenders its sincere gratitude. On the whole therefore the data which appear below are dependable.

In the study the figures from each school have been carefully tabulated, but it is not deemed wise to publish the detailed information from the individual institutions. Instead we have given below the results in groups or denominations rather than by particular schools. For example, the seminaries of all branches of Lutherans are grouped together, as are all the Seminaries which have maintained through their history either an organic or merely a close co-operative relationship with Congregational churches. Other groups are treated accordingly. The necessity of such treatment will be obvious.

The table below will show in analyzed form the complete summaries of the data on student attendance in respect to denominational affiliation and connection both as regards institutions and students. The left hand column lists the number

of seminaries reported in each group, whereas the line extending to the right enumerates the total number of students of all denominations in attendance in that group of schools. The perpendicular lines show the total number of students of the various denominations attending all schools. In the line below called "Others" are grouped the schools of small denominational as well as some of the stronger independent Seminaries, e. g., Union, of New York City.

The Seminary groups below are taken loosely.

DENOMINATION																							
No. of Sems.	Adventists	Baptists N.	Baptists S.	Disciples	Ch. of Breth.	Friends	Lutheran	Congrega.	Meth. Episc.	Meth. Ep. S.	Meth. Prot.	Pres. U. S.	Pres. U. S. A.	United Pres.	Prot. Episc.	Evangel.	Reformed	United Breth.	Unitarian	Universalist	Others	Total	
Baptist N. with U. C.....	9	377	5	13	6	1	10	8	22	2	3	3	10	1	1	4	1	2	3	1	6	482	
Without U. C.....	(8)	(334)	(5)	..	(2)	(5)	(4)	..	(3)	(1)	(3)	(357)	
Baptist S.....	2	..	800	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	808
"Congregational".....	7	1	24	3	36	1	4	95	43	..	..	11	16	..	8	..	5	5	..	24	285
Disciples.....	2(1)	..	2	77	1	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	176	..	..	..	..	1	88
Prot. Episc.....	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	177
Lutheran.....	21	..	..	..	..	..	1139	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1143
Methodist Episcopal.....	7(2)	4	..	..	..	..	1	2	644	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	661
Methodist Episcopal S.....	1(3)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	83	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	83
Presbyterian U. S.....	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	122	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	129
Presbyterian U. S. A.....	9(4)	6	..	1	2	2	4	10	22	..	..	7	430	5	2	6	24	4	..	26	551
Reformed.....	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	166	..	..	3	173
Reformed Presbyterian..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	R.P.13	19
Unitarian.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	22
United Brethren.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62	..	..	64
United Presbyterian.....	2	4	..	..	4	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	2	77	..	2	..	..	..	..	95
Universalist.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	29	34
Others.....	11	13	29	23	61	1	11	35	28	12	36	2	31	2	7	133	15	..	5	..	42	485	
TOTAL.....	96	14	451	813	150	75	8	1174	157	780	100	39	147	496	86	194	146	211	74	29	30	125	5299

(1) Brite and Drake only. (2) Central Wesleyan, Nast and Swedish (Evanston, Ill.) did not provide information but they have a total attendance of 71, making the total for the Meth. Episc. N. 732. (3) S. Methodist University, Dallas, did not report. (4) Bloomfield with 22 in attendance did not give denominational figures.

SEMINARY GROUPINGS	Students of Own Denom. in Own Seminaries	Students of Other Denom. in Attendance	Students of Own Denom. in Other Seminaries	Total Students Educated by Denom. Seminaries	Total Students of Denom- ination
Adventists.....	13	....	1	13	14
Baptist N.....	377	105	74	482	451
Without U. C. (1).....	(334)	(23)	....	(357)	....
Baptist S.....	800	8	13	808	813
"Congregational" (2).....	95	190	62	285	157
Disciples (3).....	114	11	53	125	167
Protestant Episcopal.....	176	1	18	177	194
Lutheran.....	1139	4	35	1143	1174
Methodist Episc. (4).....	644	17	136	661	780
Methodist Episc. S. (5).....	83	....	17	83	100
Presbyterian U. S.....	122	7	25	129	147
Presbyterian U. S. A.....	430	143	66	573	496
Reformed (All).....	166	7	45	173	211
Ref. Presbyterian.....	13	6	....	19	13
Unitarian.....	19	3	10	22	29
United Presbyterian.....	77	18	9	95	86
United Brethren.....	62	2	7	64	69
Universalist.....	29	5	1	34	30
TOTAL.....	4359	527	572	4886	4931

Notes:

(1) The inclusion of the University of Chicago among the Baptists N gives to the denomination no small credit for educating men of other persuasions.

(2) Among "Congregational" are listed those schools like Yale, Oberlin, etc. which are not organically Congregational but which through the years have been in close friendly co-operation with the denomination.

(3) These figures do not do the Disciples justice, since but two of their schools reported. The numbers in the third column, however, are reliable.

(4) Attention has been called before to the fact that the figures for Nast, Central Wesleyan and the Swedish are not included in the above.

(5) The Southern Methodist University of Dallas did not provide data.

OBSERVATIONS

Exclusive of the University of Chicago Divinity School, the Baptist Seminaries are devoting their attention, on the whole, to students of their own Church. The "Congregational" Seminaries are devoting 67 per cent of their money to the education of students of other denominations, whereas 40 per cent of all Congregational Theological students are profiting by the investments of others. The Disciples also attend other schools in large proportions. The Methodists do not educate many students of other persuasions, but their students go in large numbers to other schools. The Presbyterians U. S. A., while generous to provide instruction for 143 men of other churches, receive in return free training for 66 of their men in other schools, the majority of whom are in Union, Yale and the University of Chicago Divinity School. Students of other denominations adhere quite strictly to their own schools. The weakening of the denominational hold on the students may be

noticed in certain instances where the figures of the third column are in excess of those of the second. The above tables show that approximately one-eighth of the students studying for the ministry are in seminaries not of their own denomination.

INDEPENDENT SEMINARIES

	Harvard Union Vanderbilt Univ. of Chi. Divinity Sch.	Independent but in Friendly Co-operation with Congregational Churches	Total
Baptists N.....	68	24	92
Baptists S.....	3	3	6
Congregational.....	38	72	110
Church of Brethren.....	4	1	5
Disciples.....	36	36	72
Protestant Episcopal.....	7	8	15
Evangelical.....	6	..	6
Friends.....	2	4	6
Lutheran.....	21	9	30
Methodist Episcopal.....	45	43	88
Methodist Episcopal S.....	14	..	14
Presbyterian U. S.....	2	11	13
Presbyterian U. S. A.....	41	16	57
Reformed.....	16	5	21
Unitarian.....	8	..	8
United Brethren.....	2	5	7
United Presbyterian.....	2	..	2
Others.....	30	27	57
TOTAL.....	364	264	608

OBSERVATIONS ON THE MORE INDEPENDENT SEMINARIES

The Divinity School of the University of Chicago has students of 19 different denominations listed among its students. 36 per cent of the entire enrollment are Baptists. Six Seminaries usually classified as "Congregational," but which are only so by friendly affiliation and co-operation, have 28 per cent Congregationalists and 72 per cent others, distributed among two score denominations.

Yale has 15 per cent Congregationalists, 18 per cent Methodists, 22 per cent Disciples, and 45 per cent others.

Union has 13 per cent Baptists, 15 per cent Methodists, 18 per cent Presbyterians, and 20 per cent Congregationalists. But 3 of the 8 "Congregational" Seminaries have as many Congregationalists in attendance as Union. But 4 of all the Presbyterian U. S. A. Seminaries have as many Presbyterians in attendance as Union.

The above figures seem to reveal a tendency of the denominations to neglect the Seminaries which are free from their own control. The strong contrast is very noticeable between

this class of schools and those which are under strict denominational control. Compare Yale with its 15 per cent Congregationalists with Chicago Theological Seminary which has 92 per cent Congregationalists. Compare also Vanderbilt with its 17 per cent Methodists with Emory University Seminary which has 100 per cent Methodists.

It is significant to note the wide range of denominations represented in the student bodies of the following Seminaries: Union, Harvard, Yale, University of Chicago Divinity School, Vanderbilt, Oberlin, Hartford, Atlanta, Pacific School of Religion, Princeton and Lane. The reasons for this are due in no small degree to the point of view entertained by the schools themselves. Certain "liberal" schools draw "liberal" spirits from all denominations, whereas certain "conservative" schools attract from various denominations those less "liberally" inclined.

The two last paragraphs seem to show the lines of cleavage in theological thinking to be as wide within denominations as between denominations. Thus the point of view of the institution determines the type of men it attracts, with less and less regard to denominational lines. The tendency appears to be in the direction of new groupings, i. e., away from denominational to thought groups. A cross section of any one of these older groups, on critical examination, shows these elements to be crystallizing into new combinations and groupings.

The foregoing classifications of Seminaries into independent and denominationally controlled schools calls forth important inferences relative to the cause of the present status in student attendance both within the groups as wholes and within the respective schools within the groups. Though not in the purview of this paper to express them, it is hoped that these delicate but important inferences may be drawn by those who are in a position to ameliorate the situation.

CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS BY YEARS

GROUP	Graduate	Senior	Middler	Junior	Special	Total
Baptist N. (1).....	74	116	106	137	49	482
Baptist S. (2).....	...	...	...	...	...	808
"Congregational".....	38	67	73	72	35	285
Disciple (3).....	6	11	16	50	5	88
Protestant Episcopal.....	13	42	49	48	25	177
Lutheran.....	72	346	384	294	47	1143
Meth. Episc.....	66	124	176	229	66	661
Meth. Epis. S. (4).....	8	6	37	32	...	83
Presby. U. S.....	5	31	45	41	7	129
Presby. U. S. A.....	74	126	167	161	45	573
Reformed.....	25	38	47	60	3	173
Ref. Presby.....	3	16	...	...	...	19
Unitarian.....	...	6	5	6	5	22
United Presby.....	20	19	24	23	9	95
United Brethren.....	1	18	28	17	...	64
Universalist.....	3	4	15	6	6	34
Others.....	72	119	108	145	41	485
						5321 (808)
TOTALS.....	480	1089	1280	1321	343	4313

Notes: The above is a list of the groups of seminaries and not of students by denominations or denominational leanings. A few Seminaries have not given satisfactory classifications. (1) Including approximations of classes in Northern and University of Chicago. (2) Detailed information was not provided. (3) Only the Des Moines and Ft. Worth schools are here reported. (4) Only Emory is given here.

The figures for the 96 schools tabulated above show the average percentages by classes as follows: 11 per cent Graduates, 24 per cent Seniors, 28 per cent Middlers, 30 per cent Juniors and 7 per cent Special. These percentages will be especially interesting to those denominations whose students are studying in large numbers in schools other than their own. Thus the Congregational expectancy for the year's output will be 24 per cent of 157, their total student list in all seminaries, or 38 men. The graduate class will provide some recruits but as many seniors will continue their studies, thus leaving the figure about the same. On this basis the Disciples may expect 40 men to be graduated in the spring from the 96 seminaries listed above. For the total list of students of a given denomination see page (14).

CLASSIFICATION BY PREVIOUS TRAINING

SEMINARY GROUPS	College Graduate	Two years College	High School Graduate	Gram. School Graduate
Baptist N.....	286	54	58	10
Baptist S. (1).....	98	175	60	180
"Congregational".....	238	32	8	7
Disciple.....	6	36	38	8
Protestant Episcopal (2).....	91	15	25	1
Lutheran.....	883	110	137	9
Meth. Episc.....	474	83	79	25
Meth. Episc. S. (3).....	41	24	18	..
Presby. U. S.....	83	36	10	..
Presby. U. S. A. (4).....	394	64	56	11
Reformed.....	114	33	10	10
Ref. Presby.....	3	16	..	..
Unitarian.....	5	8	9	..
United Brethren.....	27	8	14	15
United Presby.....	73	7	11	4
Universalist.....	10	7	17	..
Others.....	294	47	115	11
TOTALS.....	3120	755	665	291

Note: A very few schools have not provided adequate data to be included in this report.

The above figures give in classified form the total number of students of all denominations attending the various denominational groups of Seminaries. For example in all Baptist schools there are 286 college graduates of all persuasions.

(1) Louisville Seminary gave no classification. (2) St. John's Delancy, Nashotah, and General give no statistics. (3) Emory only is reported here. (4) Bloomfield did not provide data.

The above study shows that 64.5 per cent of all the students in the 96 Seminaries reporting are "college graduates." 16 per cent have had two years of college study. 13.5 per cent have graduated from high school only. 6 per cent have not gone beyond the grammar grade.

PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGE GRADUATES IN THE SEMINARY GROUPS

"Congregational".....84%	Reformed.....68%
Lutheran.....77.5%	Presby. U. S.....64%
United Presbyterian.....77%	Methodist Episc.. S.....50%
Presbyterian U. S. A.....75%	United Breth.....42%
Methodist Episcopal.....72%	Universalist.....40%
Baptist N.....70%	Others.....40%
Protestant Episcopal.....69%	

According to this table eight groups are above the average of 64.5 per cent. The meagre preparation with which so many men enter the Seminary is a matter of no little importance to the Church. The above figures will tell their own story.

From the foregoing study it will be apparent that the Churches may profitably address themselves to the problem of attendance in their respective Theological Seminaries. Evidently eleven hundred graduates will not be sufficient to meet

the demands for trained leadership in the Protestant Churches of America, to say nothing of the needs of the foreign fields. According to the last religious census of the United States the above figures show: 1st, the number of members in the respective denominations for each of their students in the Seminary; and 2nd, the number of members in these communions for each graduate, on the basis of 24 per cent, to be somewhat as follows:

DENOMINATION	COMMUNICANTS	
	TO EACH STUDENT	TO EACH GRADUATE
Adventist.....	4,668	19,450
Baptist N.....	6,515	24,146
Congregational.....	5,104	21,250
Protestant Episcopal.....	5,633	23,475
Lutheran.....	1,951	8,129
Methodist Episcopal.....	4,761	19,837
Presbyterian U. S.....	2,441	10,171
Presbyterian U. S. A.....	3,248	13,533
Reformed.....	2,319	9,829
United Presbyterian.....	1,885	7,854

Note: Figures on the other denominations are too incomplete to yield satisfactory approximations. The actual conditions are not quite as bad as this indicates, for it is impossible to get complete data on student attendance.

Though certain allowance must be made for the accuracy of the above table, it does in a large sense reflect the actual situation. For most of the denominations the figures are not far from accurate.

The foregoing study has shown how inadequate to meet the needs of the Christian Church is the number of men now in the Protestant Seminaries. As many men are needed each year to fill the vacancies in the Churches as are in the total Seminaries in all classes. This means that there are but one fourth as many men studying in the Seminaries as there should be if the Church is to have trained leadership. The other three-fourths must be recruited from other sources, which indicates deficient training and mediocre preachers. Masses of these men are being recruited from the short course training schools. These men, however well supplied with zeal and noble purpose, are seriously handicapped by the inadequacy of their preparation. There are still others who have not even enjoyed the benefit of the shorter Bible School course.

The fact that not even two-thirds of the men studying in the 96 seminaries included in this report are college graduates further shows that even in our institutions of higher religious education we by no means find all the men adequately prepared for the grade of work expected of them. The further fact that nearly one sixth have graduated only from High School very greatly diminishes the possibilities of an adequately trained output even from the seminaries. That 6%

of the total number in the seminaries are only grammar school graduates leads one to wonder whether the schools are to be commended for their zeal to serve by accepting these men or whether they are to be censured for faulty judgment.

A strong redeeming feature of the situation is seen in the fact that 11% of the men are remaining for further study after graduation from the seminary. It is out of these, however, that the teaching staffs of the seminaries will be made up very largely, so in the end the direct gain for the pulpits is not so great as it first appears. The large percent of graduate students listed among "Baptist" seminaries, is due to the graduate school of the University of Chicago. The larger part of these are not Baptists. The number of graduate students in the "Congregational" group of seminaries has been made significant by the Graduate School at Yale, where the larger percent are not Congregationalists. The graduate list has been augmented for the Presbyterians U. S. A. by the Graduate School at Princeton. A fairly good percentage of these men are not Presbyterians. The very high percentage of the graduate students in the "Other" list is occasioned by the graduate facilities at Union. These Union men are distributed among the various denominations in about the proportion of their attendance as indicated previously. On the other hand, practically all the men taking graduate work in the Lutheran, Methodist Episcopal, Protestant Episcopal, Reformed, United Presbyterian, and a few other groups of Seminaries belong to the denomination of the seminary in which they are studying.

The great number of students studying in seminaries other than of their own denomination is significant. It means breadth of vision, knowledge and sympathy. This interdenominational or "un"-denominational instruction is tending toward unity.

The "Independent" seminary occupies a position of privilege as well as difficulty. It attracts men of different denominations in accordance with its strength and point of view. On the other hand, it has sacrificed much of the loyalty of the denomination which has fostered it, and unless it has very superior advantages it will have increasingly greater difficulties to maintain its place in the field. To no class of institutions do those persons, who pray for the unity of the Church, owe a greater debt of gratitude.

The seriousness of the situation cannot easily be exaggerated. If the Church is to hold her place in the future, to say nothing of taking advance ground, she must in some way, lead more strong men into the better class of seminaries. These schools are equipped to take care of many more men

and they are making noble efforts to get the men to fill up their classes, but they cannot do it single handed. They need the co-operation of the pastors, college professors, Christian parents, and all. One of the most "successful" pastors in one of our greatest churches recently stated that during his pastorate of ten years in that place not a single boy from his congregation had entered the ministry. Since this is not an isolated case, the task of the seminary in recruiting for itself is a great one. Until the pastors and parents can be interested more in the ministry as a calling the seminaries will continue to face this same difficulty. The situation is so serious that every agency of the Church, whose business and interest it is to recruit the right sort of men in sufficiently large numbers for the ministry, should have every possible influence for helpfulness put at their disposal without delay.